

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following two paragraphs at page 40, line 29.

In yet another related aspect, the invention provides a purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having aspartyl protease activity, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence characterized by: (a) a first tripeptide sequence DTG; (b) a second tripeptide sequence selected from the group consisting of DSG and DTG; and (c) about 100 to 300 amino acids separating the first and second tripeptide sequences, wherein the polypeptide cleaves the beta secretase cleavage site of amyloid protein precursor. In one embodiment, the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 125 or 2, whereas in another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence other than the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 125 and 2. Similarly, the invention provides a purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide that cleaves the beta secretase cleavage site of amyloid protein precursor; wherein the polynucleotide includes a strand that hybridizes to one or more of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, and 198 under the following hybridization conditions: hybridization overnight at 42°C for 2.5 hours in 6 X SSC/0.1% SDS, followed by washing in 1.0 X SSC at 65°C, 0.1% SDS. In one embodiment, the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 125 or 2, whereas in another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence other than the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 125 and 2. Likewise, the invention provides a purified polypeptide having aspartyl protease activity, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by polynucleotides as described in the preceding sentences. The invention also provides a vector or host cell comprising such polynucleotides, and a method of making the polypeptides using the vectors or host cells to recombinantly express the polypeptide.

Hu-Asp variants may be obtained by mutation of native Hu-Asp-encoding nucleotide sequences, for example. A Hu-Asp variant, as referred to herein, is a polypeptide substantially homologous to a native Hu-Asp polypeptide but which has an amino acid sequence different from that of native Hu-Asp because of one or more deletions, insertions, or substitutions in the amino acid sequence. The variant amino acid or nucleotide sequence is preferably at least about 80% identical, more preferably at least about 90% identical, and

most preferably at least about 95% identical, to a native Hu-Asp sequence. Thus, a variant nucleotide sequence which contains, for example, 5 point mutations for every one hundred nucleotides, as compared to a native Hu-Asp gene, will be 95% identical to the native protein. The percentage of sequence identity, also termed homology, between a native and a variant Hu-Asp sequence may also be determined, for example, by comparing the two sequences using any of the computer programs commonly employed for this purpose, such as the Gap program (Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package, Version 8 for Unix, Genetics Computer Group, University Research Park, Madison Wisconsin), which uses the algorithm of Smith and Waterman (Adv. Appl. Math. 2: 482-489 (1981)).

Shotgun DNA sequencing of this Asp2 genomic clone and comparison to the cDNA sequences of both Hu-Asp2 and the partial murine cDNA sequences defined the full-length sequence of murine Asp2 (SEQ ID No. 198). The predicted amino acid sequence of murine Asp2 (SEQ ID No. 199) showed 96.4% shared identity (GCG BestFit algorithm) with 18/501 amino acid residue substitutions compared to the human sequence. The proteolytic processing of murine Asp2(a) is believed to be analogous to the processing described above for human Asp2(a). In addition, a variant lacking amino acid residues 190-214 of SEQ ID NO: 199 is specifically contemplated as a murine Asp2(b) polypeptide. All forms of murine Asp2(b) gene and protein are intended as aspects of the invention.